TIMBER TALK

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President's Message

Hi Everyone,

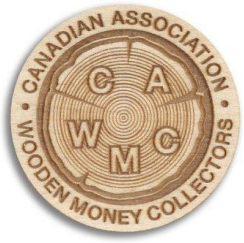
Every year at this time I look back and reflect on what events have happened in the past year. Covid-19 is still the headline news item that we all chat about, but I do see society opening and I hope that trend continues. I am really looking forward to when we can all attend the different numismatic events that take place throughout the year. It is not too early to think about heading to Ottawa next July and attend the CAWMC breakfast meeting taking place at the RCNA Convention.

This month we have a new feature section in Timber Talk called "Get to Know Me" I think members will find this interesting and hopefully will submit their own short bio for an upcoming issue. There are many members that we all know and chat with, but do we really know that much about them? I will be approaching the club's executive and asking them to write a short bio about themselves and this will get the ball rolling for fellow members to follow with their own. You can read my bio in this issue.

We are still looking for a member to take over the role of running the "Wood of the Month" program. Ross has done a great job overseeing it for over 28 years and has asked if someone would take over the duties of preparing, distributing and mailings the packages to the club members. Ross will answer any questions you might have and help with the transition. Ross' email is rosskingdon@rocketmail.com

In closing I would like to wish the members of CAWMC and their families a Very Merry Christmas and All the Best is 2022! *James*

Featured Wood of the Month



Our Featured Wood of the month commemorates the 300th anniversary of the issuance of the 9 denier coin in 1721, which was the first copper coin issued especially for the French Colonies. This laser-engraved wood measures 38 mm and shows in the center of one side, the actual size of a copper 9 denier. The coin reproduced is surronded by the inscription 300 ANS D"HISTOIRE/300 YEARS OF HISTORY and the dates 1721 and 2021.

The reverse shows the CAWMC logo, as updated in 2017. CAWMC is one of 15 north American numismatic organisations that participated in this commemorative program.

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Stocking Stuffers

There comes a time in life…
When one must clean up and make room.

I had time this fall to hold many, many woods, review what I have and what I like, decide which woods I wanted to hold on to, and which ones could go to another, hopefully, good family.

I decided to organise these woods in small "gifts bags" (One can find bags holding about 12 woods in the "craft" section at Dollarama), and offered them to attendants of our public, local coin exposition in October. These bags contained one Halloween wood, and a variety of other ones. I prepared 50 more bags for our December local coin club meeting, each containing at least one Christmas wood, etc. I'll offer them as free Stocking Stuffers, for each interested member to take as many as they need/want.

I figure that, between both events, I will have distributed about 1272 woods, and maybe, along the way, intrigued future Woodies.

France

Get to Know Me

Hi, my name is James A. Williston and I am the current President of CAWMC.

I was born in Montreal, Quebec and the first 18 years I lived on a small farm situated in the Chateauguay Valley, located southwest of Montreal. The Battle of Chateauguay in 1813 was fought 7 miles from where I grew up! I started to collect coins in 1967, when I noticed the coins had changed design and thought that was something special and that got me hooked in collecting them and other older coins in general. I then branched out into collecting paper money and Canadian Tire Coupons. I used to store my collection in a blue toolbox I purchased at Canadian Tire. I placed my coins in the bottom part of it and the bills in the upper tray. In 1978 I moved to Edmonton, Alberta and started my career in the oil and gas industry. My collecting was put on pause, around that time till 1998 when I joined the Edmonton Numismatic Society, just before they hosted the CNA convention that year. I still remember how big my eyes got when I first entered the bourse and saw how large it was. Up till then I had only been to three coin shops in my collecting history. I also joined the CAWMC at the breakfast meeting that was held at the Convention that year. I have expanded in my numismatic collecting fields to include encased coins, spinners, coin postcards, counterstamp coins/tokens and of course wooden money. I have been on the boards of many numismatic clubs and groups, the RCNA, CPMS, CNS, CCCC and CTCCC and CAWMC and a general member of other clubs. In 2018 I retired and now have some extra time to enjoy my collecting passion. I really enjoy the fellowship that this hobby has provided and enjoy meeting old friends and making new ones every year at the RCNA Convention.

Cheers, *James*

Your Gift is in the Mail

CAWMC's annual Christmas package of monthly "Free Woods" is in the mail and will hopefully arrives safely at each destination. A sampling of this year's good variety of woods is shown here. A big 'Thank You" goes out to all those considerate CAWMC members who have donated these woods so our entire membership can have one. They are France Waychison , Lou Vesh . Jim Smith , Bob Fritsch , Al Munro , Dave Gillespie , Judy Blackman , and John and David Hnatiuk

If you are getting a wood made for future use, please consider a donation to our entire membership as we rely on these donations for future use.

To all our members, I wish for you and yours a happy Christmas season and a safe and healthy New Year

Ross

Chips from the Woodpile …*By Dave Gillespie*

As the December issue of our newsletter arrives on your computer screen or delivered by snail mail, we are again reminded that Christmas is next up on the calendar. Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind with an opportunity this year for family gatherings once again. Let's hope that Science and Medicine can soon put the COVID Virus and Delta Variant behind us for good ….

Timber Talk identified a new wood in July 2007 by C.A.W.M.C. member Mike Berthelot of Canmore, Alberta. Mike was operating a handyman and maintenance business in the town and although he may not be related, I can only think of "Mike from Canmore" and the Royal Canadian Air Farce that aired on the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as a comedy troupe from 1970 to 1997. We travelled with friends from Calgary to Canmore a few days after the 2019 Convention hosted by the Calgary Numismatic Society. I asked if we might see "Mike from Canmore" as highlighted in the comedy series, but they didn't know anything about him. Unfortunately, we didn't bump into "Mike" although the Rocky Mountains were unbelievably picturesque as we sat on a restaurant patio to watch the sunset.

The Lion's Club of Calgary North issued two woods (one small and one large) in the promotion of their cash lottery at the 2008 Calgary Stampede. The woods were given to everyone who purchased either $20.00 or $50.00 in tickets on the Lucky Loot Draw. There was no mention on the woods as to when the draw was to take place, but some "Lucky" person not only got to enjoy the Stampede but took home a life changing grand prize $ 300,000.00.

In the last newsletter for 2007, the President's message provided readers with a little bit of information on Al "Digger" Munro and his start to collecting among other things, wooden nickels. Back in 1982 his mother was a resident in an auxiliary hospital and one of her roommates had a collection of world coins. One of the items that Al saw was a wooden nickel from the "3 Peeks Cafeteria" in Olds, Alberta. Al took the wood to two prominent collectors, Garry Braunwarth and Stan Clute and neither of them had seen nor did they recognize the wood. Al realized at that point that if he started collecting 'wood' it might be possible to amass a collection that was unique to any other

collection, but it would be limited to the size of his wallet and the effort that he was willing to put forth. This was the beginning and I think that it is fair to say that Al has probably unearthed and discovered more issues of unknown Canadian woods than any other member.

"Inundation Days" – 50th Anniversary. The city of Cornwall has a broom stock size wood issued in 1958 as catalogue # 5200-001. July 1st 2008, marked the fiftieth anniversary of the wood and the disappearance of several villages, hamlets and farming communities over the course of four days. According to Ross Kingdon, "The villages of Milles Roches, Moulinette, Iroquois, Wales and many others along with large farming communities became casualties to progress, disappearing beneath the waters of the newly created Lake St. Lawrence. Prior to the "Inundation", the St. Lawrence River's smooth flow was broken only by the mighty Long Sault Rapids, just west of Cornwall. Over the years canals were built to circumvent the rapids and in the mid 1900's increase demand for power saw Ontario Hydro look seriously at harnessing the river. Over 6500 residents were displaced. The project, a twofold venture began on August 10th, 1954. It was first and foremost to provide low-cost hydroelectric power to Eastern Ontario and Upstate New York. Secondly, it would replace the antiquated canal system to handle large ocean-going shipping vessels. On July 1st, 1958, a 30-ton dynamite blast tore open the cofferdam and over the course of four days towns, villages and farmlands were lost lying in a watery grave at the bottom of Lake St. Lawrence. In 1959 a second broom stock size wood was issued to recognize the official opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway".

AND now for a quiz question:

1. In what city is Mercury Dry Cleaners located? And in what year did the business issue a wooden nickel?

Til next time … Let the Chips lie where they fall.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year *Dave Gillespie*

Answer to the quiz question of November 2021

Q. In what town is The Hotel Hamilton located? And in what year did the owners issue a wooden nickel? A. Neepawa, Manitoba issued in 1972 – wood # 6350-00

Woods of the World *by Vic Agha*

Redwood. Redwood dollars were designed by OL Wallis and given away as free promotions. The one pictured was issued in 1980 via the San Francisco Coin Club, while another one from the Northern California Wooden Money Collectors was issued in 1978. Exact details on how many such designs were made are not readily available, and both clubs are now defunct. In some cases, the wood is half red and half white. (The heartwood of a redwood tree is red, while the wood closer to the edge is white.)

Sitka spruce. The majority of the woods that Tenino issued (both historically and in the 90 years since then) were made of sitka spruce. In addition to flats with face values of 25c, 50c, and $1, eleven issuers made wooden tax tokens, all with face values of 1/5th of a cent. The commemoratives they've issued in the decades following are probably sitka spruce. The $25 covid relief ones that they are issuing today are. I verified as much by calling Tenino's city hall.

And while Tenino tends to get most of the attention, numerous other cities in Washington issued wooden scrip: Aberdeen, Bellingham, Blaine, Bremerton, Everett, Hoquiam, Issaquah, Longview, Olympia, and South Bend. Many of these were probably made of sitka spruce as well.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

I / We wish to **JOIN** or **RENEW** my membership in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors (CAWMC). **Annual Dues are due before January 1st of 2022:**

Canadian Resident $10.00 / Youth *(16 years of age and under)* $5.00 Canadian Funds

U.S. Resident $10.00 / Youth *(16 years of age and under)* $5.00

U.S. Funds International Resident *(outside Canada and United States)* $20.00 Canadian Funds

Surname: _____ First Name: _____ Fee: _____

Surname: _____ First Name: _____ Fee: _____

Mailing address: _____ (street, unit, etc.)

City / Town: _____ Province / State / Other: _____

Postal / Zip Code: _____ Country: _____

E-mail for receiving Timber Talk newsletter: _____

Contact Telephone:_( )_____ Please include the area code with the contact number above.

Note: your e-mail address is given to our Editor to set you up with website access to Timber Talk archives and other site features. Our President uses it to send out the newsletter by e-mail. Your mailing address is used by our Secretary for membership records, and for mailing out your woods annually if you are not available to receive them in person. If you receive your newsletter by Canada Post, our Secretary uses your address for that purpose. Your phone number is the CAWMC Executive to contact you if business dictates. We do not give out your contact information to anybody without your expressed consent beforehand. If you wish your contact information to be given in an upcoming Timber Talk as you wish to invite other members of the CAWMC to contact you for trading woods, or just hobby discussion, or for research on a wood you cannot identify, please contact our Editor.

Payment by E-transfer. Send your payment to france@waychison.com.

If there is a change in your address or phone number, please send an email to Al Munro wood5cents@shaw.ca or to France D. Waychison at france@waychison.com.

Payment by cheque: send this completed form and your cheque to

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